

Federal Electronics Challenge Pilot:

Information for Federal Agencies and Facilities

Electronic Stewardship One Byte @ A Time

Why Electronics?

Used and obsolete electronics, such as computers, printers, mobile phones, and fax machines, are part of an increasing and complex waste stream that poses challenging waste and environmental management problems for federal facilities. Electronic products contain a variety of hazardous constituents. Cathode ray tubes, circuit boards, batteries, and other electronic components often contain toxic materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. This growing and changing waste stream presents new challenges and responsibilities in designing and managing electronic products to reduce their life-cycle environmental impacts.



Why the Federal Government?

The federal government, which purchases more than \$38 billion worth of electronic equipment and services annually, has the opportunity to provide leadership in the environmentally sound and cost effective management of its electronic assets. The Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) will help federal facilities and agencies become leaders and face the new challenges posed by this waste stream.

What Is the FEC Pilot?

The FEC is a purchasing, use, and end-of-life management challenge issued for federal facilities or agencies that want to **purchase greener** electronics products, **manage their electronic assets** in an environmentally sound manner, **receive assistance** in changing their current practices, and **gain national recognition** for their efforts.

Any federal agency, facility, or department can join the challenge, and recognition will be provided to organizations and individuals. FEC is being piloted in 2003 and will be rolled out as a national program in 2004.

FEC Pilot Partners Will:

- **Select a target** challenge level (partner, bronze, silver, or gold) and pursue necessary steps to reach the selected level.
- **Sign the FEC Pilot Facility Pledge**, complete a baseline survey, and identify goals.
- **Participate** in occasional conference calls to assess progress and provide feedback on the FEC pilot.
- **Evaluate** the FEC pilot.
- **Document results** so that FEC can promote successes through case studies.

FEC Pilot Partner Facilities Will Receive:

- Educational training and feedback.
- Networking opportunities.
- Improved agency environmental footprint.
- Cost-effective tools for managing electronic assets.
- Strategies for saving money on electronics management including resource efficiency, energy savings, and equipment maintenance.
- Strategies to ensure data security.
- National recognition from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

FEC Sponsors

FEC is brought to you by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the General Service Administration, the Federal Network for Sustainability, and many more partners to come.

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